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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Keep us alert, O God, in body, mind, and spirit, that in all that the day presents, we would remain attentive and faithful to the calling to which You have called each of us.

Give strength to those among us whose bodies are burdened with the strain of long hours of weighty work, miles of travel to stay connected with constituents, or the vestiges of illness or injury.

Give inspiration to those whose minds are wrought with innumerable issues for which they are held accountable, facts and figures and derivative impacts that confound reason and tax the brain.

Give respite to those whose spirits are weary from the challenges to their integrity, misgivings of their sense of purpose, and threats to their moral and ethical underpinnings.

In You, O Lord, we find our strength, our inspiration, and our respite. May we turn to You throughout this day that we would find all that we need to remain steadfast and faithful in our service to You and to this Nation.

In the power of Your name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRIORITIZING LOCAL HIRES

(Ms. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,

which includes a local hire provision that I offered to allow local transportation projects like the Los Angeles Metro to prioritize the hiring of local Angelenos for projects that are taking place in their own backyard.

My district has recently had two major construction projects. On the Westside, it is the Purple Line, which is going to connect UCLA to downtown L.A. In South L.A., it is the Crenshaw Line, which is going to bring a vital means of public transportation to neighborhoods historically neglected when it comes to economic investment.

It really didn't make sense that people living in the neighborhoods where the projects were going through could not be prioritized for the jobs. That is why this provision is so important.

With the local hire provision signed into law, people in Los Angeles neighborhoods can be prioritized for jobs in L.A. We are bringing thousands of well-paying jobs to Los Angeles and putting tax dollars back into the communities that paid for the projects in the first place.

THREAT TAGS

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, being a parent is a sacred responsibility, and every parent simply wants what is best for their kids. That is why, over the past year, we saw parents speak up at local school board meetings all across the country.

Whether it was pushing back against the radical teachings of critical race theory or voicing their opposition to mask mandates or allowing boys in girls' bathrooms, parents were standing up for their kids.

However, the National School Board Association deemed people exercising their First Amendment rights as domestic terrorists, and the Department of Justice used this narrative to launch investigations into parents.

Now we are learning from a whistleblower that the FBI was using antiterror tools to monitor parents and adding threat tags to files to track them. This is absurd. We should never criminalize parents for speaking up for their children.

To make matters worse, we now know the Attorney General lied under oath when he said there was no coordination between the DOJ and the National School Board Association. This administration has weaponized the DOJ for political gain and has chosen to stand with teachers unions over parents and students.

These actions are tyrannical, and Congress must know the extent to which parents were spied on.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA
PUTS FAMILIES FIRST

(Ms. SEWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of President Biden's historic Build Back Better agenda.

Already, congressional Democrats have come together to pass part one of the Build Back Better agenda. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the largest investment in United States infrastructure in nearly a century, and it will benefit my State of Alabama in so many ways.

It will provide \$5.2 billion to repair Alabama's roads, \$225 million to fix Alabama's bridges, and \$100 million to connect every Alabamian to high-speed internet.

Now we have the opportunity to pass part two, the Build Back Better Act. That, too, will invest in Alabama by creating millions of good-paying jobs; providing affordable childcare for over 300,000 Alabamians; lowering healthcare costs for families, including 300,000 Alabamians who fall into the Medicaid coverage gap; and delivering universal pre-K to over 110,000 Alabama 3- and 4-year-olds.

As co-chair of the Ways and Means Racial Equity Initiative, I have fought to ensure that equity remains a central focus, and I am proud that these bills will uplift our most vulnerable communities in so many transformative ways.

It is fully paid for. I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the Build Back Better Act.

BIDEN INFLATION CRISIS

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Biden inflation crisis has hit the poor and middle-income families the hardest.

Inflation just reached a 30-year high, and consumer prices have increased to an astonishing 6.2 percent compared to 12 months ago. This has serious impacts on hardworking families as they try to make ends meet and prepare for the holiday season.

Are you planning on buying a 16-pound turkey? Be prepared to pay 18 percent more this year. That does not even include the stuffing.

Are you planning on driving to visit family for the holidays? Plan on paying 61 percent more in gas prices than last year.

Instead of taking action to rein in wasteful government spending and address rising costs, the White House is claiming a vote for the Build Back Better plan will solve the inflation crisis, which is a complete lie any way you look at it.

Their socialist spending plan will add more fuel to the inflation crisis and worsen their self-made supply chain crisis.

It is no wonder a majority of Americans disapprove of President Biden's handling of the economy, and it gets worse every single day.

Americans cannot afford to fund the Democrats' liberal wish list, and it is

time that Washington bureaucrats take real action to get back to fiscal responsibility and save our country.

In God we trust.

INVESTING IN BROADBAND IS ESSENTIAL

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, high-quality, high-speed broadband is essential in today's interconnected and interdependent world. Underserved communities throughout America need internet access for education, transportation, and healthcare services and to realize the full potential of all of our citizens.

The American Rescue Plan provides money, lots of money, for State and local governments to expand broadband. The bipartisan infrastructure law builds on that effort by making a \$65 billion investment in broadband.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Federal Government and local governments in western New York to move quickly and effectively to ensure everyone can realize their full potential with access to quality, high-speed broadband.

HONORING THE CAREER OF ROBERT LARSON

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of one of my constituents, Robert Larson, and congratulate him on his retirement.

For 27 years, Bob served as commissioner of the Port of Benton and has dedicated himself to serving his neighbors and his community.

Thanks to Bob's efforts, the U.S. Navy and the Port of Benton were able to partner to bring a section of the USS *Triton* submarine to Richland in honor of veterans who served in Navy submarines.

From strengthening local supply chains to preserving the history of the Hanford Site and so much more, Bob's contributions to the Port of Benton, the greater Tri-Cities, the State of Washington, and our country are a true testament to his spirit of service.

As a lifelong Washingtonian, on behalf of the people of the Fourth Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Bob for his decades of public service and wish him all the best in retirement.

OIL COMPANIES' COSTS GO DOWN WHILE FUEL PRICES GO UP

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I am upset about inflation. As our economy

reopens and demand surges, big corporations have taken advantage. They have squeezed consumers for profit and raised costs on everyday Americans.

Corporate greed is a primary reason why costs for American businesses and families have gone up. I will give you one example.

The cost of refining oil has gone down, yet gas prices went up. Let me repeat that again. The costs to oil companies have gone down, and fuel prices went up.

That is why I am joining President Biden in calling on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether oil and gas companies are engaging in anticompetitive or potentially illegal behavior to jack up your gas prices.

REJECT CRADLE-TO-GRAVE SOCIALISM

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, shortly, this body will begin debating the most radical and expensive spending bill in our Nation's history.

Shockingly, Democrats are intent on moving forward without the CBO's final cost analysis. But independent estimates put the bill's price tag around \$4 trillion, twice what Democrats claim. This level of reckless and unpaid-for spending is unsustainable.

On top of that, the problematic provisions in this bill are a mile long. It will heighten the border crisis, undermine American energy, and worsen the inflation crisis. It will raise taxes on hardworking families and calls for hiring 87,000 new IRS agents.

Unbelievably, one of the biggest parts of this bill is a special tax break for the wealthy. The list of problems goes on and on, but the bottom line is this massive bill represents cradle-to-grave socialism. That is not what America stands for.

Madam Speaker, please join me and reject this radical legislation.

HONORING DONALD L. HARRIS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a great man from my district after his passing recently. Donald Harris was a developer with a conscience, a visionary, a dreamer, a thinker. He helped rebuild Newark and created housing projects in areas that needed redevelopment.

His housing projects were more than just buildings. Mr. Harris used them to educate new residents on proper homeownership and how to move forward in this economy to sustain their lives. He made sure his projects created more opportunities for African Americans and other minorities. That is why he earned the Golden Broom Award for improving Newark's quality of life.

He was a man whose faith guided him to help those in need. He was an example for all of us to follow.

Madam Speaker, I am here to honor Donald Laverne Harris for a life well lived.

REQUESTING RESPONSE ON CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, last month, I led the California Republican delegation in a letter to Secretary of the Interior Haaland and Secretary of Commerce Raimondo regarding the reinitiation of consultation on the 2019 biological opinions for the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project.

Despite our request for a response, we did not receive an answer by the set deadline. This issue is critical to my constituents in the Central Valley. Failure to provide answers to our urgent questions is unacceptable.

This week, I led another letter to Secretaries Haaland and Raimondo. Once again, we are demanding answers regarding the administration's antiscience decision, which threatens the livelihoods of Central Valley farmers and families.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I will not back down, and I urgently request attention and response to this issue.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF RANDY ROSENBAUM

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of an extraordinary Rhode Islander, my friend Randy Rosenbaum.

For 27 years, Randy has served as the executive director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, where he helped Rhode Island artists to share their gifts and talents with the rest of the world.

From the up-and-coming artist to the well-established, the young artists to the old, Randy lifted up the work of a diverse, new generation of Rhode Island artists.

To put it simply, he is to the Rhode Island arts community what the smile is to the Mona Lisa.

Randy has left an indelible mark on the Rhode Island arts scene, increasing RISCA funding ninefold, putting the Ocean State on the map as a film location, and supporting Rhode Island's \$2 billion arts economy.

Randy's leadership, now that he is retiring after 30 years at the helm of RISCA, will surely be missed, but his legacy lives on through his countless accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Randy on his retirement, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter.